

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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O 261628Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186799

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD FOR ACTION

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC DIA WASHDC INFO USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE CINCUSNAVEUR FROM TEHRAN 19 AUG 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6949

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRANIAN MILITARY ALERT

REF: USDAO 181230Z AUG 74

1. AS OF AUGUST 19 PRECAUTIONARY ALERT REPORTED IN REFTEL IS
CONTINUING. AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR REPORTS MANY IIN OFFICERS
HE HAS TALKED TO ARE NOT AWARE OF REASONS FOR ALERT BUT ASSUME
IT DIRECTED AGAINST IRAQ AND IS NOT JUST AN EXERCISE. ALERT
IN SOUTHWEST DOES NOT APPEAR TO INVOLVE ARMY OR GENDARMERIE.

2. AMCONSUL TABRIZ REPORTS THAT ALL ARMED SERVICES ALONG
BORDER IN THAT CONSULAR DISTRICT ARE ON ALERT, GENERALLY WITH
HALF OF PERSONNEL ON DUTY AT A TIME. AGAIN MOTIVE SEEMS TO BE
PRECAUTIONARY, AS NO NEW CLASHES WITH IRAQ MILITIA OR TROOPS
HAVE BEEN REPORTED. IRANIAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD CONSUL THEY BELIEVE
PURPOSE IS TO BE READY IF IRAQI ACTION AGAINST KURDS SHOULD
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SPILL OVER ACROSS BORDER.

3. COMMENT: POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL REASON FOR ALERT IS TO WARN
IRAQIS AGAINST ANY PROVOCATION DURING ISTANBUL TALKS. FONMIN
KHALATBARI WHO WILL VISIT TURKEY AUGUST 20 IS REPORTED BY PRESS
TO BE EVALUATING ISTANBUL TALKS WITH A VIEW TOWARD POSSIBLE
MEETING WITH IRAQI FONMIN IN TURKEY IF SUFFICIENT PROGRESS
BEING MADE IN PRELIMINARY TALKS. KHALATBARI TOLD PRESS AUGUST
14 HE BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS COULD LEAD TO SETTLEMENT OF
DISPUTE BUT ADDED THAT RECENT IRAQI AGGRESSION ON BORDER CALLED
INTO QUESTION BAGHDAD'S SINCERITY. END COMMENT. HELMS
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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